

Appl. No. : 09/682,599  
Filed : September 9, 2001

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Original) An article, comprising:  
a machine readable medium which stores machine executable instructions, the instructions causing a computer to:  
detect random information in a descriptor of an electronic communication; and  
establish said electronic communication as being an undesired electronic communication based on said detect of said random information.
  2. (Original) An article as in claim 1, wherein said random information includes a plurality of random characters.
  3. (Original) An article as in claim 1, wherein said random information includes a plurality of random words.
  4. (Original) An article as in claim 1, wherein said detect random information comprises detecting specified words which include additional random information associated therewith.
  5. (Original) An article as in claim 2, wherein said detect random characters comprises comparing a content of said electronic communication to a dictionary of words, and establishing parts within said electronic communication that are not within said dictionary as being random characters.

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6. (Original) An article as in claim 1, wherein said electronic communication is one of an e-mail or a web page.

7. (Currently Amended) An article as in claim 1, further comprising an instruction to filter said electronic communication based on said instructions to establish said electronic communication as being an undesired communication.

8. (Original) A method, comprising:  
receiving an electronic communication;  
detecting random information within a descriptor associated with said electronic communication; and  
filtering said electronic communication, prior to reaching a user, responsive to said detecting.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein said filtering comprises restricting said electronic communication from reaching said user, when said detecting detects said random information within said electronic communication.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein said random information includes random characters.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein said random information includes random words, and said detecting comprises comparing said electronic

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communication with a dictionary of words, and establishing items which do not match any parts of said dictionary as being said random information.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 8, further comprising defining rules which determine which electronic communications should be filtered, and detecting said electronic communications based on said rules.

13. (Currently Amended) An article, comprising:  
a machine readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

process electronic communications according to rules which define characteristics of said electronic communications which will be filtered prior to reaching the user; and

establishing said electronic communication as being ones which will be filtered when content of electronic communication matches said filter content by a specified amount less than 100%.

14. (Original) An article as in claim 13, wherein said instructions to establish include instructions to determine a random content within said electronic communication in addition to a content defined by said rules.

15. (Currently Amended) An article as in claim 13, wherein said establishing establishes the communication as one to be filtered ~~win~~ when the content matches by 80-90% percent or more.

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A2 16. (Original) An article as in claim 14, wherein said random content is  
determined by comparing said content with a database.

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